

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Serial No. Pending	§	Int'l Filing Date: 17 July 2002
	§	
Title: FLEXIBLE VERTEBRAL	§	
LINKING DEVICE	§	
	§	Examiner: pending
	§	
Applicant: Fortin et al.	§	GA No.: pending
	§	
Atty docket no: PUS-H002-001	§	

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**FIRST PRE-AMENDMENT**

***Via Express Mail to:***

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
2011 South Clark Place  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby Room 1B03  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Together with the enclosed filing papers, Applicant requests that the following amendments be made to the claims *before calculating the fees due for such application.*

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims 6-12 as follows: